**Shelley Williams**

## NELA Internship Weekly Activity Log

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| February | Teacher Observation | Teacher Evaluation | Teacher Meetings | Building Meetings | District Meetings | Community Meetings/ Contacts | Extra- Curricular Events | Management Tasks | Other |
| Monday  6 RRGSD |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tuesday  7 NELA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Literacy day 1 |
| Wednesday  8 NELA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Literacy day 2 |
| Thursday  9 RRGSD |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Interviews |  |
| Friday  10 RRGSD |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Interviews |  |

\*Reflection on this weekly log (include feedback from coach and mentors: NELA Literacy Day’s 1 and 2 were held this week so I was unable to go to Hollister. However, as part of my duties in RR, I am responsible for hiring a new Teacher Assistant for our EC Preschool Classroom. On Thursday and Friday, we conducted 7 interviews. It was such a great experience for me. I learned so much about myself. First, because of my friendships with my African American cohort members, I have thought so much lately about the lack of diversity at the RRGSD preschool. We have 3 African American staff members: one teacher assistant, the custodian and the cafeteria worker. Our students in Roanoke Rapids are not afforded the same opportunity to experience the diversity I have had the pleasure of experiencing these past 2 years. So in my quest to hire a new TA, I was hoping we would have some diverse applicants and we did. Hooray! Second, I learned that what I think in my mind is not always reality. The first woman we interviewed on Friday was a very well dressed African American woman. We really liked her answers. She would have been a good fit. We were excited. When I went to get the next applicant, I am ashamed to admit, but my first impression was, “This one is going to be a dud”. She had a scowl on her face and wore nursing scrubs. I was not impressed. When I introduced myself to her, she beamed a beautiful smile that said she was a kind kindred spirit. The others on the interview team verbalized the same initial reaction. Wow, were we wrong! Of all we interviewed, she was the best! Her answers made us teary. Her compassion for children was obvious. Her love of special needs children was clearly shown to us. She was the one we ended up choosing to hire. I reflected back to the Florida book we just finished reading in class, “The Creative Class”. In this book, the author suggests that times have certainly changed and our culture is so much more casual. My mind hasn’t quite caught up with that concept but I must admit, I did judge this applicant negatively by her attire and I was wrong. I can’t wait for her to begin. I just hope she continues to wow us!!